

ARC-OVER

APRIL 2020 EDITION

Stimulus

It is a slow day in the small Oklahoma town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit.

A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk, saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night.

As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op.

The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit.

The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves.

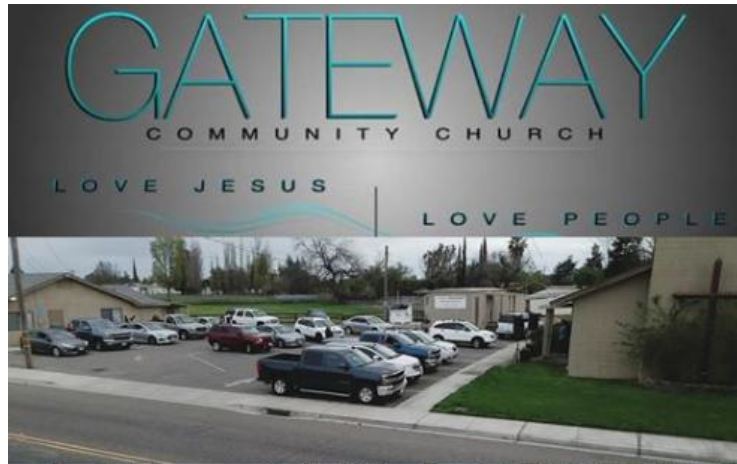
No one produced anything. No one earned anything... However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how a Stimulus package works.

COVID-19 and Local FM Radio

Sent by: Spencer Boyd – KJ6ART

With all of the life changes the COVID-19 virus has brought us it has forced churches to change the entire look and feel of their gatherings. My friend, Gary Shriver, KC6SWL, and I have been involved with Christian low power FM broadcast stations for quite some time. With the COVID-19 changes we heard God's call. Although not directly related to amateur radio I thought it would be neat to share a letter that was published in Radio World on how he and I were able to get a local church's service on the air.



The following is a letter sent to RW from reader Gary Shriver, who is station manager for [KVHH\(LP\)](#), "Christian Hits FM." He responded to our call to learn how radio stations are serving their community during the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). Tell us about your own efforts; [email Radio World](#).

Greetings from KVHH(LP) in Turlock, Calif.

Just a short story about how we have been able to help during these "tuff" times of COVID-19.

We here in California have been ordered to "shelter in place," meaning no groups of over 10. All local non-essential businesses, schools and churches have been shuttered. It's a ghost town out there. Unless of course you go to Costco first thing in the morning to stand in line and make a run on toilet paper! LOL.

Being a contemporary Christian format, our hearts go out to the local congregations that are forced to no longer meet. I came into contact with a local pastor with a pretty creative idea. He called me looking for a spare transmitter he could borrow because he wanted to have a "drive-in" church service where he could set up the worship service in the parking lot and all could come to church on Sunday, but stay in their cars at a safe distance.

Of course, I couldn't offer a transmitter, but we did one better. We cobbled together an AoIP set-up and ran last Sunday's service live over "Christian Hits FM." It was a screaming success. Everybody loved it!

You should have heard the broadcast. During his sermon, whenever he made an uplifting statement of hope (where normally you would hear an "amen" from the congregation,) everyone in their cars started honking their horns. It was awesome and hilarious at the same time! The ambient mic picked up everything.

Makes me smile just thinking about it. We plan on doing this every Sunday morning until things get back to normal.

It has been an honor and a blessing to help our community in this way.

Published in Radio World: March 27, 2020

TWO BOSONS

With the advent of the world situation our thoughts tend to dwell on recollections and experiences of a more substantive nature... Thus is the recollection of two different bosons that served on the Spirit of Grace a WWII munitions freighter operated by Friendships Ministry... Their main thrust is to provide relief to the impoverished masses tucked away in some obscure part of the world... I became involved with the Grace on it's maiden voyage out of San Pedro to Roatan Honduras in 1997... I started handling radio email via pactor radio cutting and pasting messages through my personal email account.

Carl Smith was the bosn supervising the deck crew with loading placement and stowage of donated cargo for the trip... Carl had previously had a checkered career in the Navy and was a Boson's mate briefly at one time... His problems began in earnest when he was assigned to shore duty on Guam... It was all too easy to make a hop to Thailand where high quality "nose candy" heroin could be obtained... His career began to go down the toilet with a failed marriage, mustering out of the Navy followed by several years of short and long prison and jail terms... He ultimately realized that the answer was not in himself...

He was introduced to the Team Challenge Ministry where he realized he was loved by an eternal God and began to turn his life around... His life story is told in his book "The Ultimate Pursuit"... After a period of time wanting to expand his service capability he heard of the proposed mission of the Grace to Honduras and volunteered, with his previous Navy experience he became the new Boson...

At the Friendships warehouse in San Pedro, there was a young lady with whom Carl had developed a blossoming romance... He proposed marriage to Andrea, hoping she would marry him and join the ship for the voyage to Roatan... Apparently her trepidation on sailing to a Central American Island overcame her love for Carl and she declined... Carl went ahead and sailed with the ship and shortly noticed this little red headed Swedish lass named Helen with a whimsical smile... Shortly a romance developed with wedding plans eminent on arrival in Honduras...

In that the email I handled was all cut and paste of text into and out of my personal email account I was prone to scan messages for any inappropriate content which never happened... I got to handle all of the Dear Carl, Dear Andrea letters with the I'm so sorry, big mistake, sorry but it's too late etc... Carl and Helen were married and subsequent to their stint with Friendships our Boson and his wife returned to Los Angeles returning to work with Team Challenge eventually becoming director until his death September of last year...

In the later part of 1998 pactor radio email had progressed from cut and paste to a semi automatic format capable of utilizing the subject line of the message with email address that provided forwarding to and from the internet... The new Netlink software although somewhat primitive was a giant step towards stand alone email forwarding... Hurricane Mitch showed it's ugly head in the Caribbean and Friendships responded with donated relief supplies for those in the devastated Central American area... With a bit of arm twisting I acquired the position of Radio Officer, leaving Mz Ivy at home to tend the fledgling Netlink radio email system... Remember at this time Winlink as we know it only existed as a land-line mariners bulletin board not becoming a viable Pactor email program until year 2000...

And now for Boson number two and how their lives intertwine... In March of 2002 I got an email from Sondra Tipton Friendships asking if myself and my bride would commit to a year serving aboard the Grace for a trip to Israel taking donated cargo for the mass number of refugees entering Israel... Much to my surprise, Ivy said lets do it... I cautioned her be prepared for at least two years in that Friendships were somewhat optimistic on their time tables... So I handed Vaughn Wilson, K6IMN my checkbook and the keys to the house and boarded Amtrak to the waiting ship in Seattle.. Quite soon Ivy noted, this is just like home, you play radio while I do housework !!!

(Two Bosons) cont.

After a couple of weeks we were underway to the Friendships facility in Galveston Texas via the Panama Canal... We had a new young fellow Joel Butler from Canada as Boson. He knew enough about circuit diagrams that if a relay needed to be operated on one of the winches and wasn't operating he could bypass the safety circuit by wedging a sliver of wood between the armature and the relay backstop... I spent the first several weeks mining Canadian wood out of the winch relay control circuits... There were 18 winches with 4 different control packages... The anchor winch safety contactors were completely unrecoverable... This meant I had to setup a manual sequential toggle switch operation... The only more rewarding feeling of seeing the Anchor drop is being able to see that sucker come up again... LOTS of circuit checking and a bit of prayer prior to dropping the hook for the first time...

With a delay at the Panama Canal to replace a 400lb steering motor we crossed the canal and arrived in Galveston... We spent the next year readying the ship for the Atlantic voyage... You can imagine the challenge of spending a year on an unheated, non-air conditioned WWII freighter... A real challenge to determination and fortitude... After a year we moved the vessel to a newly acquired facility in Lake Charles...

This is a pix of the Grace in the Calcasieu Channel entering Lake Charles... We spent 4 months there finalizing refurb, taking on fuel and cargo.. We arrived in Port Ashdod Israel Christmas Eve 2003.

During the trip all email correspondence was handled on the now World Wide Winlink Pactor Network... One evening I had picked up a message from Carl the first Boson and his wife Helen.. It was a beautiful picture of their young daughter Moa... Dess a young lady who was romantically involved with the current Boson, Joel Butler was in the bridge radio room... She was musing because Joel had proposed marriage as a father figure I was her sounding board... I said Dess, let me tell you a story about another Boson, Carl the Boson for the maiden voyage of the ship... He was sweet on this little gal, Andrea at the warehouse in San Pedro, ask her to marry and go on trip... She reluctantly refused... He met Helen and the rest is History... Now Dess, we all make choices in our life... You can decide, do you want to be an Andrea or a Helen? She ultimately made the choice, She and Joel are now in Oregon they run a food ministry for the impoverished and he is pastor of a small church... They have three lovely children...

Couple weeks ago I ran across Carl's Book and contacted Helen... I recounted to her the influence that Moa their daughters picture had had on the lives of another Boson and his wife... She was especially touched to hear that Dess still had a copy of the picture we received on the ship...



Helen & Moa

Joel and Dess

✕ **Life River Fellowship** ➤

Online Sunday Service

April 5, 2020

An encouraging message from Pastor Joel & Dess Butler



Meeting of the Turlock Amateur Radio Club
April 14, 2020 @ 7PM
W6BXN Repeater

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) on the W6BXN repeater with 28 checkins.

Vice President's Report:

Vice President Dick Decker (K6SUU) was not present.

Membership Chairman's Report:

John Sims (N6JCS) was not present.

Treasurer's Report:

Report presented by Treasurer Mike Smith, (KG6VFL). There is currently \$2026 in the club checking account and there has been no change to the club savings account balance. PG&E bills for January, February and March have been paid. There have been no other expenses. \$220 of dues have been collected and deposited which brings our 2020 ytd paid membership to 42 members.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the March meeting have not been distributed but will be in the upcoming ArcOver to be distributed prior to the next meeting.

Repeater Chairman's Report:

Grady Williams (K6IXA) had nothing to report.

ArcOver Publisher's Report: Grady Williams (K6IXA) reported items for the ArcOver are due by April 19, 2020.

Old Business:

President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) reported the club field day this year will be held this year using the ARRL guidelines to operate from home using portable equipment if possible.

New Business:

President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) reported that if we are still under stay at home guidelines next month that we could use the free version of the Zoom online video conferencing service for our May meeting. Spencer Boyd (KJ6ART) will take the lead to organize the meeting and send the membership the link to join. The board will make final decision at next board meeting which will still give us time to organize an online meeting if needed.

Meeting adjourned by President Bambi Schmidt (KI6YQL) at 7:09pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Greg Back (WA6LGS).

Program:

There was no program for this meeting.

Zoom Zoom Zoom

With the outbreak of congenital halitosis a large portion of the world has gone to social media for their meetings... Students no longer able to congregate are confined to their homes for their studies... At the moment the most popular medium seems to be an internet product called Zoom... Teachers especially those of the senior generation are being mentally challenged with the new learning curve encountered...

One who desires to host a session must download the software for their PC, Tablet or Smart Phone. It's a relatively simple process... Now to be a participant supposedly no software is required... WELL the jury is out on that one, because acute observation contradicts that theorem... Definitely not true on any cell phone and occasionally required on the laptop also... One only knows for sure until the attempt is made...

You will find all cell phones and most laptops are equipped with a camera and microphone capability... If you have a older PC to have full audio and video interface you might have to pick up a stand alone camera mike combination... Logitech makes a variety of units in the \$35 range that work very well... Once up and going Zoom works very much like Skype on steroids... I find it easier for the most part... One of the neat features is screen sharing which allows you to share files or jointly view other sites on the internet... The free version allows up to 100 users with a 40 minute time limit... The Pro at \$14.95 with Business and Enterprise versions with their variants of specific features at \$19.95 per month...

I currently utilize Zoom for 4 different meeting occurrences one being the TARC board meeting... I find that a well organized meeting can be wrapped up within the 40 minute time limit without going to one of the paid versions...

Cluttered room, not a problem, various background scenes downloadable or you can use one of your own photos as a back ground... As the adjacent picture depicts one needs to be aware of what shows up on screen... I recall Sherry Sharp wife of Jerry WA6CVL was member of an women's early morning AOL video chat group... Early one morning Jerry destroyed to solemnity of the assembled chorus when he wandered into camera view wearing only his BVD's scratching his back-side enquiring as to what was for breakfast...

On the surface the process looks simple enough and actually is... However I would recommend you download the software and go through an actual connect to verify and put into operation all of the features... With the 40 minute free version one does not want to waste time trying to sort out issues and bring a straggler on line... To that end if you are serious I would recommend you contact someone already familiar with setting up Zoom checking out everything making sure it actually works

Go to <https://zoom.us/support/download> give it a try... Make sure you audio and video work using the self test or better yet connect to an additional station... Great way to hold meetings, keep in touch with relatives and Friends... Remember, need a hand? Contact me via gradyw@elite.net or by calling me on 209-761-1121... Try it you will like it...

